

## Your Monthly Tabadool

### **Policy innovation and breakthrough solutions to enhance MSME finance**

The MED MSMEs Programme organized on December 1 and 2, 2022, a regional policy dialogue on Financial Inclusion Policies and Innovative MSME Financing in the South Med. The event gathered more than 70 participants among which Central Banks, non-banking regulators, Ministries, private sector reps, SME agencies as well as innovative financial institutions and civil society. The dialogue identified 23 recommendations and calls for action under four themes, namely: policies and strategies, digitalization, green transition and gender. Takeaways and access to the experiences shared are accessible [HERE](#).

### **TRADE4MSMES: resources on trade finance**

The initiative of this platform, launched at the end of 2021, came from an informal working group of the World Trade Organization on SMEs. [TRADE4MSMES](#) provides SMEs with a wide range of resources and tools on trade finance: definitions, financial instruments and products, types of financing, risks, insurance and guarantees... Links to [training](#) are proposed, notably on export financing and payments. The platform also refers to documentation including various [guides](#) and to numerous websites ([Global Trade Helpdesk](#), [International Chamber of Commerce](#), etc.).

### **Region and Entrepreneurship: an inspiring European initiative**

The [European Committee of the Regions](#) is launching the 2024 European Entrepreneurial Region Award on the theme "Cities and territories on the path to sustainable, resilient and digital growth". The objective - through the awarding of this label of excellence - is to promote local and regional actions supporting the green and digital transition of SMEs. This initiative, which was first held in 2011, also offers the opportunity to highlight the decisive role of SMEs and entrepreneurs in the EU economy and in strengthening its resilience.

### **SME sustainability: UN Global Compact guide**

Corporate management that focuses on sustainability through ESG criteria (environmental, social and governance) is increasingly emerging within SMEs. Resources and tools facilitating the adoption of these standards are therefore welcome. The [United Nations Global Compact](#) is responding through an action guide

that deploys a multi-step approach: learning about sustainability, assessing the business, engaging with stakeholders, defining objectives, communicating progress.

### **Preparing SMEs for the post-Covid era: the World Economic Forum's recipe**

The World Economic Forum has just published a report on the [preparation of SMEs for shocks and turbulence on the global scene](#): geopolitical tensions, climate change, energy crisis, inflation, new health risks... To face these challenges, SMEs must succeed on three levels: generate long-term innovative growth; have a positive societal impact; and develop adaptive capacities in terms of resilience and agility. In addition, the report's survey of a global sample of 800 SMEs from 21 different sectors revealed that their main current concerns relate to survival and expansion (67%), engaging talent (48%) and preserving corporate culture and values (34%).

### **A composite index to measure progress in industrialization**

If SMEs are an essential driver of industrialization and growth, how can this industrialization be measured today? The recent report by the African Development Bank proposes an index based on three components: Performance (capacity to produce and export manufactured goods), Direct determinants (investment in capital and skilled labour), Indirect determinants (business climate, infrastructure, macroeconomic stability). The analytical tool that this index constitutes can be examined in detail [here](#) with a regional comparison of North Africa against peers.

### **When a public investment bank turns into fintech**

This is the case of Bpifrance, which is strengthening its digital transformation with a new platform to consolidate its positioning as [an online bank](#) for entrepreneurs, very small businesses and SMEs. The service offering allows them to monitor their cash flow, access a banking space for carrying out traditional management tasks and benefit from various other services (personalized support, cybersecurity diagnosis, carbon footprint, training, etc.). The offer is designed to be attractive by adopting a monthly subscription formula at a reduced cost and without commitment.

**Best wishes for 2023 and happy New Year!**

